ORDERS

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By

The Lord *MAJOR* and Aldermen of the City of LONDON, concerning the Infection of the Plague.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

ORDERS

Conceived and publiſhed by the Lord MAJOR and Aldermen of the City of *London*, concerning the infection of the Plague.

WHereas in the firſt Year of the Reign of our late Sovereign King *James* of happy memory, an Act was made for the charitable relief and ordering of Perſons infected with the Plague: whereby Authority was given to Juſtices of Peace, Majors, Bayliffs, and other Head-Officers to appoint within their ſeveral Limits Examiners, Searchers, Watchmen, Keepers, and Buriers for the Perſons and Places infected, and to miniſter unto them Oaths for the performance of their Offices. And the ſame Statute did alſo authorize the giving of other Directions, as unto them for the preſent neceſſity ſhould ſeem good in their diſcretions. It is now upon ſpecial

consideration thought very expedient for preventing and avoiding of infection of Sickness (if it shall so please Almighty God) that these Officers following be appointed, and these Orders hereafter duly observed.

Examiners to be appointed in every Parish.

FIrst, It is thought requisite and so ordered, that in every Parish there be one, two, or more persons of good sort and credit, chosen and appointed by the Alderman, his Deputy, and Common-Councel of every Ward, by the name of Examiners, to continue in that Office the space of two Moneths at least: And if any fit Person so appointed, shall refuse to undertake the same, the said parties so refusing, to be committed to Prison until they shall conform themselves accordingly.

The Examiners Office.

THat these Examiners be sworn by the Alderman, to enquire and learn from time to time what Houses in every Parish be visited, and what persons be sick, and of what Diseases, as near as they can inform themselves; and upon doubt in that case, to command restraint of access, until it appear what the Disease shall prove: And if they finde any person sick of the Infection, to give order to the Constable that the House be shut up; and if the Constable shall be found remiss or negligent, to give present notice thereof to the Alderman of the Ward.

Watch-

Watchmen.

THat to every Infected Houſe there be appointed two Watchmen, one for the Day, and the other for the Night: And that theſe Watchmen have a ſpecial care that no perſon goe in or out of ſuch infected Houſes, whereof they have the Charge, upon pain of ſevere puniſhment. And the ſaid Watchmen to doe ſuch further Offices as the ſick Houſe ſhall need and require: And if the Watchman be ſent upon any buſineſs, to lock up the Houſe and take the Key with him: and the Watchman by day to attend until ten of the clock at night: and the Watchman by night until ſix in the morning.

Searchers.

THat there be a ſpecial care, to appoint Women-Searchers in every Pariſh, ſuch as are of honeſt reputation, and of the beſt ſort as can be got in this kind: And theſe to be ſworn to make due ſearch and true report, to the utmoſt of their knowledge, whether the Perſons, whoſe bodies they are appointed to Search, do die of the Infection, or of what other Diſeaſes, as near as they can. And that the Phyſicians who ſhall be appointed for cure and prevention of the Infection, do call before them the ſaid Searchers who are or ſhall be appointed for the ſeveral Pariſhes under their reſpective Cares, to the end they may conſider whether they are fitly qualified for that employment; and charge them

from time to time as they ſhall ſee cauſe, if they appear defective in their duties.

That no Searcher during this time of Viſitation, be permitted to uſe any publick work or imployment, or keep any Shop or Stall, or be imployed as a Landreſs, or in any other common imployment whatſoever.

Chirurgions.

FOR better aſſiſtance of the Searchers, for as much as there hath been heretofore great abuſe in miſreporting the Diſeaſe, to the further ſpreading of the Infection: It is therefore ordered, that there be choſen and appointed able and diſcreet Chirurgions, beſides thoſe that doe already belong to the Peſt-houſe: amongſt whom, the City and Liberties to be quartered as the places lie moſt apt and convenient: and every of theſe to have one quarter for his Limit: and the ſaid Chirurgions in every of their Limits to joyn with the Searchers for the view of the body, to the end there may be a true report made of the Diſeaſe.

And further, that the ſaid Chirurgions ſhall viſit and ſearch ſuch like perſons as ſhall either ſend for them, or be named and directed unto them, by the examiners of every Pariſh, and inform themſelves of the Diſeaſe of the ſaid parties.

And for as much as the ſaid Chirurgions are to be ſequeſtred from all other Cures, and kept onely to this Diſeaſe of the Infection; It is ordered, that every of the ſaid Chirurgions ſhall have twelve-pence a Body ſearched by them, to be paid out of the goods of the party ſearched, if he be able, or otherwiſe by the Pariſh.

Nurſe-

Orders for Health.

Nurſe-keepers.

IF any Nurſe-keeper ſhall remove herſelf out of any infected Houſe before 28 daies after the deceaſe of any perſon dying of the Infection, the Houſe to which the ſaid Nurſe-keeper doth ſo remove herſelf ſhall be ſhut up until the ſaid 28 daies be expired.

Orders concerning infected Houſes, and Perſons ſick of the Plague.

Notice to be given of the Sickneſs.

THE Maſter of every Houſe, as ſoon as any one in his Houſe complaineth, either of Botch, or Purple, or Swelling in any part of his body, or falleth otherwiſe dangerouſly ſick, without apparent cauſe of ſome other Diſeaſe, ſhall give knowledge thereof to the Examiner of Health within two hours after the ſaid ſign ſhall appear.

Sequeſtration of the Sick.

AS ſoon as any man ſhall be found by this Examiner, Chirurgion or Searcher to be ſick of the Plague, he ſhall the ſame night be ſequeſtred in the ſame houſe.

And

And in case he be so sequestred, then though he afterwards die not, the House wherein he sickned shall be shut up for a Moneth, after the use of due Preservatives taken by the rest.

Airing the Stuff.

FOR sequestration of the goods and stuff of the infected, their Bedding, and Apparel, and Hangings of Chambers, must be well aired with fire, and such perfumes as are requisite within the infected House, before they be taken again to use: this to be done by the appointment of the Examiner.

Shutting up of the House.

IF any person shall have visited any man, known to be Infected of the Plague, or entred willingly into any known Infected House, being not allowed: the House wherein he inhabiteth, shall be shut up for certain daies by the Examiners direction.

None to be removed out of Infected Houses, but, &c.

ITem, that none be removed out of the House where he falleth sick of the Infection, into any other House in the City, (except it be to the Pest-house or a Tent, or unto some such House, which the owners of the said visited House holdeth in his own hands, and occupieth by

by his own ſervants) and ſo as ſecurity be given to the Pariſh whither ſuch remove is made, that the attendance and charge about the ſaid viſited perſons ſhall be obſerved and charged in all the particularities before expreſſed, without any coſt of that Pariſh, to which any ſuch remove ſhall happen to be made, and this remove to be done by night: And it ſhall be lawful to any perſon that hath two Houſes, to remove either his ſound or his infected people to his ſpare Houſe at his choice, ſo as if he ſend away firſt his ſound, he may not after ſend thither the ſick, nor again unto the ſick the ſound. And that the ſame which he ſendeth, be for one week at the leaſt ſhut up and ſecluded from company for fear of ſome infection, at the firſt not appearing.

Burial of the dead.

THat the Burial of the dead by this Viſitation be at moſt convenient hours, alwaies either before Sunriſing, or after Sun-ſetting, with the privity of the Churchwardens or Conſtables, and not otherwiſe; and that no Neighbours nor Friends be ſuffered to accompany the Coarſe to Church, or to enter the houſe viſited, upon pain of having his houſe ſhut up, or be impriſoned.

And that no Corps dying of Infection ſhall be buried or remain in any Church in time of Common-Prayer, Sermon, or Lecture. And that no children be ſuffered at time of burial of any Corps in any Church, Churchyard, or Burying-place to come near the Corps, Coffin, or Grave. And that all the Graves ſhall be at leaſt ſix foot deep.

And further, all publick Aſſemblies at other Burials are to be forborn during the continuance of this Viſitation.

No infected Stuff to be uttered.

THat no Clothes, Stuff, Bedding or Garments be ſuffered to be carried or conveyed out of any infected Houſes, and that the Criers and Carriers abroad of Bedding or old Apparel to be ſold or pawned, be utterly prohibited and reſtrained, and no Brokers of Bedding or old Apparel be permitted to make any outward Shew, or hang forth on their Stalls, Shopboards or Windows toward any Street, Lane, Common-way or Paſſage, any old Bedding or Apparel to be ſold, upon pain of Impriſonment. And if any Broker or other perſon ſhall buy any Bedding, Apparel, or other Stuff out of any Infected houſe, within two Moneths after the Infection hath been there, his houſe ſhall be ſhut up as Infected, and ſo ſhall continue ſhut up twenty daies at the leaſt.

No perſon to be conveyed out of any infected Houſe.

IF any perſon viſited do fortune, by negligent looking unto, or by any other means, to come, or be conveyed from a place infected, to any other place, the Pariſh from whence ſuch Party hath come or been conveyed, upon notice thereof given, ſhall at their charge cauſe the ſaid party ſo viſited and eſcaped, to be carried and brought back again by night, and the parties in this caſe offending, to be puniſhed at the direction of the Alder-

Alderman of the Ward; and the houſe of the receiver of ſuch viſited perſon to be ſhut up for twenty daies.

Every viſited houſe to be marked.

THat every Houſe viſited, be marked with a Red Croſs of a foot long, in the middle of the door, evident to be ſeen, and with theſe uſual Printed words, that is to ſay, *Lord have mercy upon us*, to be ſet cloſe over the ſame Croſs, there to continue until lawful opening of the ſame Houſe.

Every viſited Houſe to be watched.

THat the Conſtables ſee every houſe ſhut up, and to be attended with Watchmen, which may keep them in, and miniſter neceſſaries unto them at their own charges (if they be able,) or at the common charge if they be unable: the ſhutting up to be for the ſpace of four Weeks after all be whole.

That preciſe order be taken that the Searchers, Chirurgions, Keepers and Buriers are not to paſs the ſtreets without holding a red Rod or Wand of three foot in length in their hands, open and evident to be ſeen, and are not to goe into any other houſe then into their own, or into that whereunto they are directed or ſent for, but to forbear and abſtain from company, eſpecially when they have been lately uſed in any ſuch buſineſs or attendance.

Orders for Health.

Inmates.

THat where ſeveral Inmates are in one and the ſame houſe, and any perſon in that houſe happen to be infected; no other perſon or family of ſuch houſe ſhall be ſuffered to remove him or themſelves without a Certificate from the Examiners of Health of that Pariſh; or in default thereof, the houſe whither he or they ſo remove, ſhall be ſhut up as in caſe of Viſitation.

Hackney Coaches.

THat care be taken of Hackney Coachmen, that they may not (as ſome of them have been obſerved to doe) after carrying of infected perſons to the Peſthouſe, and other places, be admitted to common uſe, till their Coaches be well aired, and have ſtood unimployed by the ſpace of five or ſix daies after ſuch ſervice.

Orders for cleanſing and keeping of the Streets ſweet.

The Streets to be kept clean.

FIrſt, it is thought very neceſſary, and ſo ordered, that every Houſholder do cauſe the ſtreet to be daily pared before his door, and ſo to keep it clean ſwept all the Week long.

That

Orders for Health.

That Rakers take it from out the Houſes.

THat the ſweeping and filth of houſes be daily carried away by the Rakers, and that the Raker ſhall give notice of his coming by the blowing of a Horn as heretofore hath been done.

Layſtalls to be made farre off from the City.

THat the Layſtalls be removed as farre as may be out of the City, and common paſſages, and that no Nightman or other be ſuffered to empty a Vault into any Garden near about the City.

Care to be had of unwholeſome Fiſh or Fleſh, and of muſty Corn.

THat ſpecial care be taken, that no ſtinking Fiſh, or unwholſome Fleſh, or muſty Corn, or other corrupt fruits of what ſort ſoever, be ſuffered to be ſold about the City or any part of the ſame.

That the Brewers and Tipling-houſes be looked unto, for muſty and unwholſome Cask.

That no Hogs, Dogs, or Cats, or tame Pigeons, or Conies be ſuffered to be kept within any part of the City, or any Swine to be, or ſtray in the Streets or Lanes, but that ſuch Swine be impounded by the Beadle or any other Officer, and the Owner puniſhed according to Act of Common-Councel, and that the Dogs be killed by the Dog-killers appointed for that purpoſe.

Orders concerning looſe Perſons and idle Aſſemblies.

Beggers.

FOraſmuch as nothing is more complained of, then the multitude of Rogues and wandering Beggers that ſwarm in every place about the City, being a great cauſe of the ſpreading of the Infection, and will not be avoided, notwithſtanding any Order that hath been given to the contrary: It is therefore now ordered, that ſuch Conſtables, and others whom this matter may any way concern, do take ſpecial care that no wandering Begger be ſuffered in the Streets of this City, in any faſhion or manner whatſoever upon the penalty provided by the Law to be duly and ſeverely executed upon them.

Playes.

THat all Playes, Bear-baitings, Games, Singing of Ballads, Buckler-play, or ſuch like cauſes of Aſſemblies of people, be utterly prohibited, and the parties offending, ſeverely puniſhed by every Alderman in his Ward.

Feaſting Prohibited.

THat all publick Feaſting, and particularly by the Companies of this City; and Dinners at Taverns, Alehouſes, and other places of common entertainment be forborn till further order and allowance; and that the money thereby ſpared, be preſerved and imployed for

for the benefit and relief of the poor visited with the infection.

Tipling-houses.

THat disorderly Tipling in Taverns, Alehouses, Coffee-houses and Cellars be severely looked unto, as the common Sin of this time, and greatest occasion of dispersing the Plague. And that no Company or person be suffered to remain or come into any Tavern, Alehouse or Coffee-house to drink after nine of the Clock in the Evening, according to the ancient Law and custome of this City, upon the penalties ordained in that behalf.

And for the better execution of these Orders, and such other Rules and Directions as upon further consideration shall be found needful; It is ordered and enjoyned that the Aldermen, Deputies, and Common-Councelmen shall meet together Weekly, once, twice, thrice or oftner (as cause shall require) at some one general place accustomed in their respective Wards (being clear from infection of the Plague) to consult how the said Orders may be duly put in execution; not intending that any dwelling in or near places infected, shall come to the said meetings whiles their coming may be doubtful: And the said Aldermen and Deputies and Common Councelmen in their several Wards may put in execution any other good Orders that by them at their said Meetings shall be conceived and devised, for preservation of his Majesties Subjects from the Infection.

FINIS.